

James Butcher

Clumb. 12.

# THE REHEARSAL.

The Conclusion of the Comical Romance. With the Second Part to the same Tune,  
by Master OBSERVATOR.

From Saturday October the 14th, to Saturday October the 21st. 1704.

Country-m. **T**Hou promis'dst me SATURDAY Sevensnight, That next Meeting thou wou'dst give me

the Remainder of the Comical Romance, thou then began'st; wherein there shou'd be some Fighting and Cuffing work. And last SATURDAY thou put'st me off with a Story of a Marriage thou had'st Projected, or some body else for thee. What's this to Fighting?

Obs. O, Sir, the most that can be. For,

*Just so Romances are, for what else  
Is in them All, but Love and Battels?*

Having then begun the Amour Intrigue, we'll go on to Fighting, for that follows next in Order.

We left off at William Colepeper's Refusing the Challenge of Mr. Denew, upon a Private Quarrel of his own, till he had first Fought Sir George Rook; whom he never intended to Fight, either in England, Holland, or any Place else, where there was any Danger of a Halter. Besides another Considerable Reason which he gives, in his fore-mention'd State of the Difference, &c. p. 38. That Mr. Denew was, A Man more than commonly Skill'd in Fencing. And W. C. wou'd Fight no Man that had more Skill than himself.

Country-m. If any Man had given me such an Answer, I would have bestow'd my Oaken-Towel upon his Bones. For he that will not Fight, has the Privilege of being beaten.

Obs. Mr. Denew took the same Course. And meeting W. C. in the Street, laid on him with his Cane. This forc'd the Hero to Draw, and run away Backwards, till he was stopt by a Wall; which he fully prov'd at the Tryal. Then Mr. Denew Drew likewise, and pursu'd him, till he came to his Stand.

Country-m. Now Swords are out, I am Pleas'd! Now what came on't?

Obs. I'll give it you in W. C.'s own Words, in his Relation of this Combat. p. 15. where he says thus, I threw first my Hat at him, which mis'd him; afterwards I threw my Peruke, which hit upon his Shoulder: I took that Opportunity, and made a home Pass at him. Says Mr. DENEW, That is not Fair-- But W. C. p. 38. Proves it to be Fair, out of Spelman's Glossary.

Country-m. Was there no Blood shed then on either side?

Obs. No. Company came in and Parted them. Else W. C. might have thrown his Head at him next time.

Country-m. And is this the end of the Story? Is this the Conclusion of your Romance?

Obs. No, No. W. C. got a Second, was too hard for them all.

Country-m. I don't find he needed any. But what Second did he Choose?

Obs. It was my Lord Chief Justice HOLT. For he's a Knight, and so, a Man of War. At least it was so in Spelman's Glossary.

Country-m. And did his Lordship meet them?

Obs. Yes. Three of them all together, viz. Mr. Nathaniel Denew, Mr. Robert Britton, and Mr. John Merriam. And there were TWELVE Judges of the Field. Who all gave it against W. C. That there was no Conspiracy to Assassinate him, as he was Terribly Afraid; only a few Dry Blows Design'd, to Teach him better Manners. However, the Law cou'd not avoid taking Notice of Assault and Battery, and Fin'd Mr. Denew for that. And so W. C. came off Victoria!

*Sic Freya fuit, sic Gnifa peracta est:*

*Una nec interea spillata est Droppa Cruoris.*

Country-m. If there is no Great Honour, there is some Money to be got, I find, by being Drubb'd. An Ill Tongue, and a Bad pair of Hands, may Prove a Pretty Thriving Trade, with Good Management.

But what becomes of your 20 Cut-Throat Commissioners of the Blood Office, at this Rate? You see, That as many of them as were Try'd, were all Acquitt of any Design of Assassination.

Obs. What signifies being Acquitt? We can keep up the Cry and the Noise of it still. It is necessary we shou'd do so. It will Blacken these Church-Men still, with all that Believe US; which thou know'st are not a Few. Therefore, in my Observer of SATURDAY Sevensnight, the 7th Instant, I fall again upon this wicked Method of Assassination. And put all our Good Friends upon their Guard! Which will Alarm them not a little! And make them Ready for what WE have to Do with them! For who wou'd not Rather Assassinate, than be Assassinated? And they who begin first, have the Advantage. Do'st Understand me, Countryman?

Country-m.

*Country-m.* O, perfectly well, Sir! Your Language is known to us all. A Word to the Wife is sufficient! And that we may be more Deeply concern'd, and think the Knife at every Mans Throat, thou Alarm'st Us with a Design of Assassination against Thy Own WORTHY Person. And that we may guess from whom it is like to come, thou say'st to thy self, out of my Mouth, There's Captain Some-body, or Lieutenant Some-body, that says he'll Stab you, if he be Hang'd for it, for Abusing Sir GEORGE ROOK. Here's the Blood-Office up again! And D'ye think We'll all Sleep till our Throats be Cut? No, Master, We're all Ready, when ever you give the Word! I have my MARSTON-MOOR and EDGE-HILL, both Sword and Musket in Good Order. I Wipe them Clean every Day. And long to be at Work! And We know whom you mean by Captain SOME-BODY, and Lieutenant SOME-BODY, that is Captain or Lieutenant EVERY-BODY, whom We Please. And thou tell'st they are in Office. Thou say'st, These Assassins and Bullies in other Peoples Causes, are a New sort of Men, sprung up in England in a few years time; And that these Men should have Offices is a strange thing. Here's a stroke at all the Officers in the Army or Navy. At least all that Express any Concern for Sir George Rook. We'll make Assassines and Bullies of them All. And as thou say'st Notably in the same place, It is as Lawful to Stab on one side as the other. And if we begin first, it is only by way of Prevention! However, there's nothing Rouses the Spirit of Mobb, and keeps them more upon the Fret, and Ready, than the Noise of Assassinations. Then we turn this upon the GOVERNMENT; And that these Men should have Offices, is a strange thing! And what is that Government that Employs Assassines? Ha! My Boy! We have it! And whoever Reads this Observer a Twelve-month hence, will certainly Conclude, That these Rookites did intend Assassinations upon the Worthy Observer, as surely as upon the Body of W. Colepeper. And we know how to keep up the Cry in the mean time, till at last all our Party will have it by Tradition, and believe it as certainly, as all the other Stories we have Told them; And by which we have done such Great things, both in the Present and Past Ages.

But hark ye, Master, suppose Sir George Rook should find some Remedy at Law against Thee, as well as William Colepeper, who makes him to have Employ'd these Assassines, and set them on?

*Obs.* How can that be? Why, Man, the Judges are Attack'd Themselves, every one of them, the whole Bench of them Altogether; And I say Plainly, That no Fair Play is to be Expected, or Justice done, As long as our Present Judges are in Being. Which is Quoted in the Rehearsal. N. 3. As likewise my Reflections upon the Lord High Admiral, by Name, (I am not Afraid!) And upon *Sine Clade Victor*, &c. And I own my self, and tell of the Prosecution against me, and Repeat the Articles Exhibited against me; And Ridicule them, and Laugh at them all. And stand upon the Law of England, and Good Protestant Furies. I'm as safe as a Thief in a Mill. For if the Judges cannot find

Law, or that it must not be Executed (as not being Seasonable, at this Time, like the Occasional Bill) to save Themselves out of my List of Knaves, nor the Bishops, nor the Convocation, nor the House of Commons, nor the Prince Himself, nor even the Queen: What is Sir George Rook! That he should think to have any Justice by Law against ME the Observer; who Represent the whole Body of the Whiggs and Dissenters, am Employ'd, Paid, and Supported by Them, in the Face of Law it self. As Occasional Conformity is, in Despight of the Corporation, and Test Acts. And while That stands, never fear ME Country-man. It is the Party must not be Disoblig'd. And that not One way more than Another. No more by Affronting the Observer, or Stopping his Mouth, than by Bringing in Again the Occasional Bill. Let them Do, if they Dare! WE are Ready to Rebel. I have Often Proclaim'd it. And who Dare Stop my Trumpet? As I say, in the same Observer, we are upon (Vol. 3. N. 57.) where I am again Attacking Sir George Rook, by way of Extenuating what I had before said against him; And say, 'Tis a Hard Case that a Man must be Stab'd for Giving his Opinion; Certainly I have Liberty of Speech, as well as Another Man.

*Country-m.* But not Like another Man! If any of the High-Church (by which we mean all True Church-Men, and Joyn always, and in this very Observer, with Jacobites and Papists) should say the Tenth Part of what Thou hast said against the Government, and the Ministry; And name Particular Persons and Chiefs of the WHIGG Party, as Thou do'st his Royal Highness, Sir George Rook, &c. There would be Law found out for them. And the Government should Disoblige US All (since That is the Que) if they were not made Examples of. For WE have Mettle! When the Law was of Our side, in a Former Revolution, &c. WE shew'd them what Law was. Then Chimm durst not Peep. But now the Law is on Their side, We Bellow and Bully! And if They offer to take Notice; WE tell Them, WE'LL be Angry, and, That if WE are Disoblig'd, it shall be the Worse for Them! For that it is Time of War! And, my Boy, WE Carry it! The more Insolent, WE shall be the Better Us'd! For They are Afraid of US! Then Bullying is the Word! WE must not be Disoblig'd; And THEY cannot be Provok'd! Or, if they are, it is no matter, They are Friends to the Government; Therefore the Government may make bold with THEM, and Disoblige THEM, as it Pleases. For you know Friends will be Friends still! But we must Gracify our Enemies! It is Impossible to Lose a Friend: But it is the Easiest thing in the World to Gain an Enemy! Especially such Enemies as WE are! Who never yet Miss'd an Opportunity to Express our Gratitude to Those who have been most Indigent to US. As is Evident in all the Reigns since Q. Elizabeth. Who was so Fearful or Cautious as not to Trust our Good Nature; and therefore had Nothing but a few Ill Words from Us; with Hearty Endeavours to have Done more if She would have Let Us. But She Watch'd our Waters, and would Trust none of US. And if we had Liv'd under such Good Management till Now, we had All been Dead 60 Years Ago!